Columbia County Water and Sewerage System
2003 Water Quality Report

A Job Well Done!

Each year water systems throughout the state must give to their customers a report on the quality of their drinking water. We here at the Columbia County Water Dept. (ID # CS0730000) are pleased to announce that not only have our drinking water facilities met or exceeded the standards set forth by the EPA, but they have also met the standards set forth by the Georgia Water Pollution Control Association for the Annual Gold Award. (The Gold Awards are given to deserving facilities in recognition of their continual efforts to meet or exceed the standards set forth by State and Federal Laws without having a single MCL violation). Congratulations to our Drinking Water Facilities for...**A Job Well Done!**

This annual Water Quality Report provides you with important information about your tap water. Topics covered include source water information, numerical values of detected finished water quality parameters, definitions of terms, and health facts. For more information about the CCWSS, contact the Water Laboratory Manager Rodney Silvey at (706) 868-3460 or the Water Treatment Manager John Maldonado at (706)-860-2587. The Public Works Committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm at the County Government Complex conference room on Ronald Reagan Drive in Evans.

Health Facts

For health reasons the EPA has prescribed regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants, potential health effects, and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wild- life

Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm run-off, industrial or domestic waste discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off, and residential uses

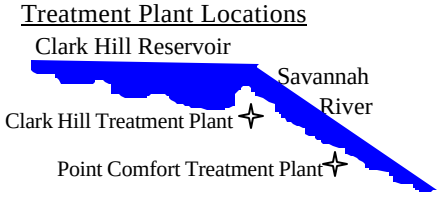
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Columbia County withdraws up to thirty-one million gallons per day of surface water from the Savannah River that is pumped to the Jim Blanchard Water Treatment Facility on Point Comfort Road. An additional one to eight million gallons per day of surface water are withdrawn from the Clark Hill Reservoir and treated at the Clark Hill Water Treatment Facility on Highway 221.



Este reporte contiene informacion muy important referente al ayua para beber. Traduscalo o hable con alquien que entienda.

Columbia County Water Quality Data for 2003

Regulated Inorganic Substances Detected in Treated Water Entering Distribution System							
Substance (Units)	**Maximum Level Allowed (MCL)**	**Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)**	**Amount Detected in CCWSS**	**Range Detected in CCWSS**	**Sample Date**	**Did CCWSS Meet Requirements**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.12	.98-1.12	2003	Yes	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.26	nd - .26	2003	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tank leachate
Turbidity (ntu)	TT=2	n/a	0.29	n/a	2003	Yes	Soil runoff and erosion of riverbanks and shoreline.
Turbidity (percent)	TT=percentage of samples<0.3ntu	n/a	100%	n/a	2003	Yes	Soil runoff and erosion of riverbanks and shoreline.
Regulated Inorganic Substances Detected in Treated Water at Tap							
Substance (Units)	**Action Level Allowed (AL)**	**Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)**	**90th Percentile in CCWSS**	**Number of sites above AL**	**Sample Date**	**Did CCWSS Meet Requirements**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.25	0	2003	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and/or
Lead (ppb)	15	0	4.5	1	2003	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Regulated Organic Substances Detected in Treated Water at Tap							
Substance (Units)	**Max Yearly Average Allowed (MCL)**	**Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)**	**Max Quarterly Average Detected in CCWSS**	**Annual Range Detected in CCWSS**	**Sample Date**	**Did CCWSS Meet Requirements**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	n/a	90.06	41.3-123.0	2003	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection by chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	n/a	57.71	23.3-100.2	2003	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection by chlorination
Substance (Units)	**Maximum Residual Level Allowed (MRDL)**	**Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)**	**Yearly Average Detected in CCWSS**	**Range Detected in CCWSS**	**Sample Date**	**Did CCWSS Meet Requirements**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.9	.1 - 1.9	2003	Yes	Water additive used to control microbs
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT=1	n/a	1.8	1.2-2.4	2003	Yes	Naturaly present in the environment

For Your Information

Substance	**Range Detected in CCWSS**
Sodium	13 - 16 ppm
Alkalinity	16 - 18 ppm
Hardness	1 - 20 ppm (Very Soft)
pH	7.0 - 7.8

Definitions:

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): Maximum disinfectant residual allowed in the distribution system

Not Detected (nd): The amount of a material in a sample was not detected during analytical testing.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Parts per Billion (ppb): One part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.

Parts per Million (ppm): One part per million is equivalent to one penny in ten thousand dollars…... (1 ppm = 1 mg/L)

Public Notice

The Columbia County Water System has voluntarily taken part in an unregulated contaminant monitoring program conducted by the Ga EPD under EPA guidelines.
None of the contaminants monitored were found in the Columbia County Water supply.
The results of these tests are available upon request. If you would like a copy of these results please contact Rodney Silvey (Laboratory Manager) at (706) 868-3460.